

temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity." St. Paul furnishes two admirable catalogues of qualities which are excellent for the New Year. One is: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report . . . think on these things." The other is: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." These are good things for young people to seek to weave into their character in the new year.

Or take work. Unfortunate is the young person who is not going to be busy this year. Work is always a means of grace. There is little danger that anyone shall be overworked. The important matter is that the work be of the best kind—something worth while. We should see to it that the work is what the Master wants us to do, and then we should put our whole soul into it. Whether it be in school, in business, in the home, or in some other calling, we may ennoble our work, making it divine, by doing it for Christ, and as he would have us do it.

Then, while pursuing our common routine task-work, we should never forget that there are other people, and that we represent Christ in our relations to them. St. Paul tells us that the Christian is debtor to everybody. Everything has a claim on us for the best and truest help we can give him. This is a debt we never can get paid up. In the evening we may say that we have done our whole duty to all men and do not owe anything to anyone. But we wake up in the morning to find ourselves in debt again to everybody, owing new help, service, thought, sympathy, prayer—all of love's full, vast debt.

The New Year calls every young person to a service of love. Mr. Moody, writing of Mr. Drummond, says that while some other men take an occasional journey into the thirteenth of First Corinthians, Henry Drummond lived there all the while. All the wonderful things Mr. Drummond found in that psalm of love were woven into his own personal life. This chapter of Corinthians is a good chapter for every young person to live in all the time. It might be well if we would all read it every day for the whole month of January, letting its words into our heart. Then we cannot help being more loving. That chapter, fully assimilated in heart and life, would change the most disagreeable, ill-tempered, crusty, unloving man into another beloved disciple. Who will try it?

Here is an old quotation from a good Quaker, Isaac Hopper, which will bear giving once more: "I expect to pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness that I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." It is to such a life of gentle, thoughtful, help-

ful and ministering kindness that the new year calls every young person.

A characteristic of the first disciples was that they promptly obeyed the Master's call. It will be a good year for any one who, hearing Christ's invitation to yet nobler, richer, and more beautiful life, will rise at once and go after him.

#### THE CHRIST LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Certainly Christ is the very best example, the purest character throughout that has ever influenced the world for better morals and purer living in thought and deed. I consider it necessary first to notice a few of his traits of character and as I mention them, I trust you may grasp some new thought or thought worth renewing that will aid each to influence the young for the better.

Christ was free from all one sidedness, which constitutes the weakness as well as the strength of the most eminent men and women. He was not a man of one idea nor of one virtue towering above all the rest. His character never lost its even balance, therefore must have been happy. It was thoroughly sound and uniformly consistent from the beginning to the end. With the strictest obedience to the law he moved in the elements of freedom and was always calm, sober and self possessed. He never got angry or in a passion. What trials he had to bear while the cruel Romans and Jews were abusing him on the cross. Oh! what patience he must have had. He freely mingled with society, both male and female, dined with publicans and sinners, sat at the wedding feast, shed tears at the sepulchre and delighted in God's nature.

His virtue was healthy, manly, vigorous yet genial, social and truly humane, and was always in full sympathy with innocent joy and pleasure. I wish to emphasize those words, *innocent joy and pleasure*. What a study on the part of the parent to always be on the alert, to place before the children true ideals of innocent pleasures and joys. Not seeming pleasures and joys attained thro envy, jealousy, and strifes, but striving to keep pure ideals and motives before us, such as Christ strove to keep before the people. Of course Christ was sinless and when realizing this fact, how much more necessary to copy such a life, for surely the less unrighteousness (which is sin) exists and on the opposite if we as young people are impelled to move on no matter what the work may be, by pure, honest motives. Oh, how different many lives would or could be made. Christ is justly compared with the lion in strength and with the lamb in meekness. He equally possessed the wisdom of the serpent and the simplicity of the dove. The same hand which drove the profane merchants from the temple, blessed little children, healed the lepers, rescued sinking Peter, shed tears of compassion over ungrateful Jerusalem, and tears of friendship at the grave of Lazarus. These traits are separated in imperfect men indeed, but united in

Christ the universal model for all. When a house is to be built, before the masons and carpenters commence work, the architect is called in to make a drawing of the building. As the workmen make after the plans they try to picture in their minds the ideal which the architect had drawn. Christ says we must all be born again and after a young person has taken off the old man and put on the new man, then is the most important time when we should take Christ as our ideal and try to shape our lives as near like his as possible. The trouble with most people (both old and young) is that their lives are not formed according to any plan. They are not striving to resemble any model nor have a definite aim or purpose. The young people should be taught that their ideal should be the highest possible, and that they can not aim higher than Christ. They will find he is a *perfect* model in every way. The Bible tells us how perfectly he conformed to his Father's will, leaving us an example in service, in love, in prayer, in self-sacrifice and in dependence upon God. Christ was divine and yet if he had only been divine, and not human too, he could never have served as a model for all. It is because he took upon himself our form and likeness, passing thro human experiences, realized human needs, and undergoing human temptations and trials that he is possible as our example. How thankful we all ought to be that we have a record of his life. What lessons the teachers and parents can bring before the children as to the resisting spirit Christ manifested while he was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. He indeed proved that he loved his God or Father. They also can be taught how obedient and humble he was. There is a story of a Bohemian king going to attend services in a distant church one snowy winter night. His servant followed him and tried to imitate his zeal, but the way was rough and he began to faint. The king told him to step in the marks he made and he was able to follow. Christ commanded us to follow in his steps and we will find the path smoother, because here he trod it in his life on earth. How can the young people be taught to get power to copy after Christ's life?

I. To learn of Christ. Do not look to men. In the 11th chapter of Hebrews we find Paul tells of Old Testament worthies, but lest we should try to imitate them he immediately turns away our eyes and fixes them on Jesus.

II. Claim by Christ the promise of the indwelling Christ. He lives in us by the spirit and until we are born again all our efforts will be in vain.

III. To keep in touch, and get better acquainted with him. Talk to him in prayer and let him talk to you thro the Bible. It is true that two persons thrown together a great deal, are apt to become alike in habits of thought and conduct and even in looks. It is said of the early disciples that the rulers "took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." Moses had a shining face after he had been with God.